

REMARKS

Claims 2-12, 17-21, and 28-34 are pending in this application. Claims 2-12, 17-21, 28, and 29 were allowed. By this Amendment, Applicants propose amending claims 6, 29, and 31-34 to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner kindly noted minor informalities present in the claims. Applicants take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for his thorough review of this application and for his identification of the minor informalities. In response, Applicants propose amending claims 6, 29, and 31-34 to correct the minor informalities present in those claims, as suggested by the Examiner.

In the final Office Action, claims 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota (U.S. Patent No. 6,201,571) in view of Steinberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,218). For the reasons detailed below, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 30 recites a camera including, among other things, "an image-pickup device ... for producing image information of the image by the electric signals," "a display to indicate the image on a screen," "a print information producing device for producing print information for the image information for the image indicated on the screen," and "a transmitting device for transmitting the image information of the image together with the print information produced for the image to an external apparatus." An exemplary embodiment of the invention, as defined by independent claim 30, is depicted in Fig. 12 and described in page 52, lines 1-20. In this embodiment, thumbnail images 122e are indicated on a screen 122 of a camera 110 and an operator, while observing the thumbnail images 122e on the screen 122, can produce print information of a particular image (e.g., designating to be printed) by using

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an operation button 122f. Thereafter, the transmitting device can transmit the image information of the image together with the print information produced for that image to an external apparatus.

None of the cited references, however, taken either singularly or in combination, discloses or suggests, among other things, the above-mentioned configuration of a camera. In particular, neither Ota nor Steinberg discloses or suggests, among other things, "a print information producing device for producing print information for the image information for the image indicated on the screen," as recited in independent claim 30.

Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts that, referring to Fig. 7 and col. 5, lines 4-8, of Ota, "Ota teaches ... a print information producing device for producing print information 30, 32 for the image information for the image indicated on the screen." Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion.

The elements designated by reference characters 30 and 32 (i.e., asserted by the Examiner as corresponding to the recited print information producing device) are a character image generating section and a synthesis processing section, respectively. See Fig. 7 of Ota. The character image generating section 30 converts information concerning date and time from a date/time counter 12 to a character image and stores it in a work memory 31. The synthesis processing section 32 then synthesizes the character image on the work memory 31 with the reduced memory output from the reduction processing section 10. See col. 4, lines 54-63. With this configuration, as shown in Fig. 4, character images generated by the character image generating section 32 are superimposed on the reduced images outputted from the reduction processing

section 10. As is apparent, neither the character image generating section 30 nor the synthesis processing section 32, taken either alone or in combination, can correspond to the recited "print information producing device" because they have nothing to do with "producing print information for the image information for the image indicated on the screen," as recited in independent claim 30.

Furthermore, as disclosed in Fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 40-54, of Ota, the display section of Ota is used to simultaneously observe the contents of the image and the information at the time of image pick-up, such as, image pick-up date, exposure time, flash status, and f-number. None of the displayed information, however, constitutes a print information. Therefore, Ota cannot disclose or suggest, among other things, "a print information producing device for producing print information for the image information for the image indicated on the screen," as recited in independent claim 30.

For these reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota in view of Steinberg, and further in view of Oikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,666,578). In addition, claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota in view of Steinberg, and further in view of Friend et al. (Understanding Data Communications).

Each of claims 32-34 depends from independent claim 30. As discussed above, independent claim 30 is patentably distinguishable over the asserted combination of Ota and Steinberg. Moreover, neither Oikawa nor Friend et al. makes up for the deficiencies of Ota and Steinberg. Therefore claims 32-34 are also allowable at least by

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virtue of their dependencies from allowable independent claim 30. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention defines non-obvious subject matter over the cited prior art. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider this application, withdraw all of the outstanding rejections, and timely allow all of the pending claims.


Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered, placing all pending claims 2-12, 17-21, and 28-34 in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit that the proposed amendments of claims 6, 29, and 31-34 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner.

The final Office Action contains a number of statements and characterizations regarding the claims and the related art. Applicants decline to subscribe automatically to any statement or characterization in the final Office Action, regardless of whether it is addressed above.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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